

[Mr. Harry Dixon]

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FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson ADDRESS North Platte, Nebr.

DATE Oct. 18, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant Mr. Harry Dixon, North Platte Nebr.
2. Date and time of interview 3 interviews were necessary
3. Place of interview His private office
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant None
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you None
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. The small but rather luxurious office of a business man. Various emblems of success are hanging on his walls and adorn his person. C15 - Neb.

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson ADDRESS North Platte Nebr.

DATE Oct. 18, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mr. Harry Dixon, North Platte, Nebr.

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1. Ancestry Father of Scotch extraction, Mother of French extraction that had been in U. S. a long time.
2. Place and date of birth Hamilton County, Iowa, 1871, Central Iowa due east of Omaha.
3. Family 4 sisters and self. Have had 2 children, son Charles died 31 Dan, Mrs. Frank [Conelin?] in Omaha
4. Place lived in with dates Iowa, 1871-1879 Nebr. 1879 till now.
5. Education, with dates
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Is a Jeweler and operates several departments in his store.
7. Special skills and interests Interested in Masonic and Elk organization was president of the Temple Craft, [presided?] 3 terms of Chamber of Commerce. Named as master merchant, State of Nebr. 1932.
8. Community and religious activities Episcopal church, member, of the vestry also was a Senior Warden number years.
9. Description of informant Dignified white hair of business type; shrew and successful
10. Other points gained in interview Mr. Dixon is regarded as one of [the?] city's leading merchants. Is conservative in his story and insists that he has little of interest to tell.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson ADDRESS North Platte Neb

DATE Oct. 18, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

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NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mr. Harry Dixon, North Platte Nebraska

I came here with my father and family in a covered wagon in 1878. We came through Omaha. Mother wasn't expected to live long when we came here. The original destination had been Denver but we couldn't travel far between rests because of mother's health, we stopped here and as she was so much better we stayed. Mother lived a great many years.

Father engaged in the dairy and cattle business and we served North Platte with milk and cream. We had a ranch on the Birdwood creek North of Hershey. We lived South of where the cemetery now is. I assisted as a boy. We had prairie fires every fall and winter. There were times when you could see prairie fire on every hill North of here and it wasn't Indian fire, it was wild fire. The Indians still traveled through but didn't bother.

I was present when Buffalo Bill gave his first performance on the 4th of July (1884) over on the Dillon race track.

I was also present when the show was loaded on the train to go to Columbus, Nebraska for its first show.

I have sold Buffalo Bill lots of merchandise over the counter. He was one of the finest characters I have ever met. In personal appearance he was fine looking. A very handsome man, if there ever was such. He had quite a reputation for drink, but I don't think his drinking was as bad as his reputation.

My mother made my clothing, she used to knit my stockings, made all my trousers and everything. We had a Victor sewing machine. I did a lot of sewing on it when she wasn't well. I got so I could sew a lot.

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I remember when we has our relief stores in 1901, they were not run by the government and state but by charity and donations. There was a double store room on Front Street, there was clothing from New York and Boston. Seed was also donated.

I've been connected with the jewelry business for myself since 1899.

As a boy I had little spare /# time to play while assisting in the dairy business. But did play baseball at school and I rode horse back a great deal in connection with my duties.